

SPEN 2-6

BURS 7920

Minutes

Senate Pensions Committee

February 6, 2019

2:00 PM

451-M

Members Present: Senators Azinger (Chair), Hamilton (Vice Chair), Plymale, Romano, Trump, Ihlenfeld

Member Absent: Senator Boso

The Senate Pensions Committee met on January 16, 2019. Chair Azinger called the meeting to order. The clerk took a silent roll call and established the presence of a quorum.

Vice Chair Hamilton moved the approval of the minutes from the January 16, 2019 meeting. Upon voice vote the motion was adopted.

Reconsideration of S. B. 38 - Exempting DNR police officers' pension benefits from state income tax.

Chair Azinger recognized committee counsel Alan Nichols to explain the reason for reconsideration of this bill. Counsel explained that there is a current Supreme Court Case which would impact this legislation. Senator Romano moved to table the legislation. Senator Hamilton seconded. Upon voice vote, the motion was adopted, the bill will be tabled.

S. B. 26 - Permitting certain employees of educational service cooperatives participate in state's teacher retirement systems.

Chair Azinger recognized committee counsel Alan Nichols to explain the bill and the proposed committee substitute. Counsel explained the bill and answered questions from the committee. Chair Azinger asked with leave of the committee if someone with knowledge could speak to the bill. Mr. Jeff Fleck, Executive Director of the CPRB approached and was sworn in by Chair Azinger. Mr. Fleck then answered questions from the committee. The committee agreed to the language of the committee substitute. Vice Chair Hamilton moved the bill be reported with the recommendation that it do pass. Upon voice vote the motion was adopted. The bill will be reported.

S. B. 316 - Preserving previously approved state Municipal Policemen's or Firemen's pensions.

Chair Azinger recognized committee counsel Alan Nichols to explain the bill and the proposed committee substitute. Counsel explained the bill and answered questions from the committee. With leave of the committee, Chair Azinger recognized Mr. Blair Taylor, Executive Director of the MPOB. Mr. Taylor answered questions from the committee. An extensive discussion followed. With leave of the committee, Mr. Fleck returned to the podium to answer questions from the committee. The committee agreed to the language of the committee substitute. Vice chair Hamilton moved the bill be reported, but under the original double committee reference, first be reported to the committee on Finance. Upon voice vote, the motion was adopted.

S. B. 341 - Establishing minimum monthly retirement annuity for retirants with 20 or more years of service.

Chair Azinger recognized committee counsel Alan Nichols to explain the bill and the proposed committee substitute. Counsel explained the bill and answered questions from the committee. With leave of the committee, Mr. Fleck returned to the podium to answer questions from the committee. An extensive discussion followed regarding survivor benefits, pensions reform act and who would benefit from the legislation. A conceptual amendment was explained by counsel Nichols clarifying survivorship benefits. Upon voice vote the amendment was adopted. Vice Chair Hamilton moved the bill be reported with the recommendation that it do pass but under the original double committee reference, first be referred to the committee on Finance. Upon voice vote the motion was adopted.

With nothing further to come before the committee, Vice Chair Hamilton moved to adjourn. Upon voice vote the motion was adopted. Meeting adjourned.

Alan Nichols, Committee Counsel

Senator Michael T. Azinger, Chair

Tina Burs, Committee Clerk